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FLOOR DEBATE

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did not believe that a person existed from the point of conception and, in fact, thought that some period of time elapsed before a fetus was infused with a soul. And it was believed that a male fetus was infused with a soul months or days prior to the time a female fetus was infused with a soul. That was the doctrine. These notions come and go, they change. Well, a particular religious position now is that a person exists at the point of conception. I don't believe that. The potentiality of a person exists. Senator Schimek pointed out the high rate of spontaneous miscarriages, or abortions if you will, that occur. So those expulsions of the fetus are not recognized in the law as being anything that the law should take note of when they're spontaneous, not induced, not caused by somebody else. What is being attempted here is to put into the law a religious concept that is not accepted by all religions or by all medical persons, but probably all medical persons of a certain religion, or most of them at any rate. When we are talking about a criminal statute, we are talking about using words to describe conduct which is going to lead to punishment if those words are not complied with. In this instance, from the time that conception occurs, which nobody can pinpoint with precision, a person exists, a person exists under the law. And if any of the acts committed against the pregnant woman that are outlined or mentioned in this proposal of Senator Foley would be committed, and the fetus,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the zygote, the embryo, would die, that person would be punished as one who committed an act of homicide. I do not believe such an act should be homicide. I do not believe that when there is a pregnant woman that two people exist. I believe one person exists. That is the pregnant woman. Any act committed should be deemed under the law an act against that woman as the law currently views it. Such being the case, we ought to make the language of the law, especially a criminal statute, comport with terminology with which the law is familiar. So the purpose of my amendment is to strike that language that calls the Homicide of an Unborn Child Act...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.